Welcome Address

by

G. D. NAIDU, M. I. S. E.,
Vice-President

on the occasion of the
Inauguration of the

SOUTH INDIA CENTRE

of the

India Society of Engineers
CALCUTTA

by

Sir C. V. RAMAN, Kt., N. L., F. R. S., etc.,

on

17—9—49

"GOPAL BAGH"

Avanashi Road Coimbatore

Friends,

Please excuse me for not making an attempt to introduce our friend Sir C. V. Raman, as everyone of you do know him more than what I know. But I am introducing him here as a Greatest Scientist of the World to-day who is going to inaugurate the forgotten ceremony of opening a South India Centre of the India Society of Engineers neglected for so long a time, as neglected by us the "Raman Effect" invented by his persistance and continued research with the bright vision of his brains. I don't think that you want anything more for him. He has done his duties, he is doing his duty, he is going to do his duty. If you want anything to do more, he is prepared to do with his enthusiasm, energy, experience and brilliant power with his combined young energy in which, symptom or symbol of old age has not entered or affected as others experienced.

Now, it is left to you to use him for the benefit of others as other countries do, or to leave him to go to the South Agastia Mountain or to the North Vindhiya, or Himalayas growing his beard with "*Dandu Kamandalas*" for doing '*Tapas*' as usually done in our country, particulary in the time of our independant Government, to keep such brilliant lights in the darkest cells with the doors shut without any holes to let out any light or air to enter. I am giving examples later on for this.

I want to mention here, that when I asked him by telephone to accept my invitation for the inaugural function of the Society, without any hesitation or without any formal thinking and seeing any previous engagements or any other work fixed on this date, he accepted this as he does in some occasions in his personal work, that is, when he takes breakfast sometimes he misses coffee or when he goes to bed he forgets to close his eyes which shows the desire and love on science where ever he sees either small or big.

Now, without knowing previously, personally, but, heard and known by his activities and through our friends, I am glad to introduce Dr. Dey as a greatest engineer in India throughout equal in status but second to our great Sir M. Visweswariayya in engineering science. He is a well known engineer abroad and worked for several years there and a well known engineer in organising the Calcutta Corporation and well known throughout the World except our Indian Government perhaps, for our South Indian friends who have gathered here. I am not able to give details about his multifarious works except saying that he has done enormous work not only in England but also in the Calcutta Corporation and he has to do much for our Independent India in future though not at present.

Then our friend Mr. H. P. Ghose also has done a tremendous work in giving the ways and means for imparting knowledge on the scale of mass production to the innocent public to know what is going on in everyday life and in every place. He is a well known writer and a speaker experienced in

the life, who has moved with people and who is in touch with events all over India and all over the world. He is one of the oldest friends of Sri. Kasthuriranga Iyengar, the Founder of THE HINDU. I am extremely glad for the acceptance of my request by these two friends without any hesitation even when they have so many inconveniences.

Our friends Messrs. N. Chowdhury, President, Ray Chaudhury and Banerjee Vice-Presidents, Chatterjee, Chaudhury and Secretaries of the India Society of Engineers have come here for this function on an official duty of their own. Hence I need not tell anything about them as you will see eye to eye and hear by your own ears what they are going to do in your presence here in the inaugural function of this centre. However I have to give profound thanks to them for the consent to my request to carry out this responsible work.

I have to tell again a few words more about the Society. A few years back I was asked and informed by some friends about the titles of this society and Doctorate of a University as well as Dewan Bahadur and Sir titles by Government. By a misunderstanding and confusion, I did not give room for the Doctorate title. In the same way I refused to accept the Sir and Dewan Bahadur titles by the Government as these titles were given only to a few extra-ordinary people with talent like our to-day's guest Sir C. V. Raman and Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chettiar, Sir C. P. Ramasami Iyer, Sir A. Ramasami Mudaliar, Sir Lakshmanasami Mudaliar, Sir C. R. Reddy, Sir C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar,

Sir T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Sir Shri Ram, Sir Purushotam Dass Takur Dass, Sir J. C. Bose and such others, keeping them as a fort of defence for their giving thousands of these titles recklessly and unwisely to Black-marketeers, hoarders, bluffers, rowdies and others who are siding and standing as pillars of the Government.

I came to know these before I refused any of these titles though the friends above mentioned, accepted these titles before they came to know these tricks. Of course, now they have come to know gradually and so throwing away the titles while few of them are still holding the titles as a vengeance or they have no time to think over this as they are busily engaged still in their work.

Then I thought over the title of M. I. S. E., of the India Society of Engineers. In this Society M. I. S. E., and A. M. I. S. E., titles are given to engineers after examination about the members who are graduated in the Engineering Colleges with a distinction of some extra-ordinary work such as inventions, industries and such other useful work with practical experience and knowledge.

Here usually, our Government appoint principals for polytechnics who have got engineering degrees with a teaching experience for a number of years and other qualifications such as raising from the lower subordinate grade to the grade of superintendent. Then I thought it a great honour for me to accept the Principalship as a Honorary Director in the Arthur Hope Polytechnic of the Madras

Government and the title of M. I. S. E., given by the India Society of Engineers for a man who had never entered any school as a student in India and has not got any degrees, diplomas or certificates or other qualifications. Though I have several other titles from other places, I like these two titles as I thought I can do something useful for others in these two places. I don't want to repeat what I have done in the polytechnic while I have done nothing for the Society until recently except giving some help for the normal work of the Society. I have to do much more. And as a beginning I have taken up this work.

Though the Society selected me as an executive council member long ago, my present unfortunate circumstances are not allowing me to attend a single meeting of the executive council. Again the Society have elected me as its Vice-President. I am a more fortunate member than any other members of the society in South India as I have been selected for the first time as an executive member and also as the first Vice-President selected from the South Indian' members.

To start with in my humble way, I suggested to our Vice-President when he was here last month, to open a South India Centre for the Society so that the members in this side may have close contact with each other frequently and do some substantial work for the benefit of our country. Without any hesitation he agreed and accordingly I addressed to the Society. The President, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries took much interest to pass this resolution

and arranged for opening this centre here, with the inaugural function by our enlightened Scientist Sir C. V. Raman. The other ideas and activities of the Society will be given by the officials of the Society.

Now I want to mention that some of our difficulties for which I hope the experienced leaders here will find out ways and means as a guide to be followed by the Government.

We all have to try to open the eyes of the Government and Public to nationalise such people and such power before nationalising any iron-ore or forest timber or Zamindari Lands. Then there will be no need for the programme of nationalisation of corruption or grow more food or taxing the public by the weapons of intoxication and the weapons of Congress Dreams.

I read in 'Blitz' that an American Business man was told that the major industries of India are Education as major Industry is in Madras, Political agitation in Bengal, Black-marketing in Bombay and Jobbery in Delhi.

I want to add here that the biggest major industry is **Corruption** by way of currency, by way of influence and favouritism in public as well as in Government while thousands of instances, though available in the public market in the presence of public eye, though all of them not found out and brought out by efficient C. I. D. officers, we can read in every week in several papers parti-

cularly in Blitz at least some daring instances with different headings such as **'Nationalization of Corruption' 'planes imported on forged license'** and several phases of corrupt activities.

Fiscal commission members were served with Tea and the bill for Rs. 12/- went on with 10 pages of notes over a month for the sanction of the Finance Ministry.

Constituent Assembly members' petrol coupons were sold at the rate of Rs. 3/8/- per gallon at Delhi. Of course it is cheaper than at Coimbatore or Madras. But nobody's membership has been cancelled on this charge.

Is there any statistics to show how many corruptive activities were in India in pre-war days as well as now? How many were found out and how many were convicted? I don't think there are any figures in the records that are maintained now. We have seen every day speeches by responsible people that very severe action is taken or going to be taken against corruption. We have to doubt about the Government for not taking any real action as the Government itself is running on corruptive machine without their knowledge.

According to their speeches leaving the corruption matter, have they done anything in industries and in production? Nothing has increased! While just before the war, the production was 99 per cent, in the middle of the war it reached 107 per cent and then after Grow More

Food Campaign sponsored by our new Government, the production has gone down to 97 per cent. As a remedy, the Government is advising us to reduce the birth rate, to reduce the quantity of rice for food and to increase the consumption of potatoes and bananas.

I read in a newspaper that potatoes are sold for one anna in England that is costing 4 to 6 annas in India, while Belgium's consumption of potatoes is more than 500 pounds per year per head, while England's consumption is more than 170 pounds per year per head, in India it is only 8 pounds per year per head. Please compare the cost and consumption. In the same way bananas also is very costly in India.

The cost of living figure in last Year is as follows :—

Cawnpore	461
Jubbalpur	384
Nagpur	372
Madras	350
Calcutta	339
Ahmedabad	333
Bombay	288
Delhi	132

Perhaps to eat potatoes and bananas in plenty, all of us have to go to Delhi to work in the Secretariat or go to London or Jamaica to eat potatoes and fruits available at cheap rates.

In the same trend, the education, business, industries, health and everything though not neglected by the present government, are going downwards very rapidly.

If you go through a bulletin published by Eastern Economist and if you go through a small article by Mr. Manu Subedar in recent **Blitz** paper, you can understand clearly the present status of the Government. Hence I don't want to drag any elaborate facts and figures here to take your time.

I will tell you briefly that on account of the present policy of taxation and on account of the present system of the administration no industries are going to thrive. The existing little morality and honesty will vanish soon. One example will do for this. The recent utter defeat of congress candidates in Calcutta and other places.

For the elections the congress officers collected enormous sums to win in the elections. One letter is published in the last week's Blitz which will show very clearly how the congress elections are carried out. Now a novel method is adapted in election though very simple by congress parties. The voters who vote for money will go inside the the booth with the vote paper and come out with the paper and exchange the vote paper with the Congress canditate. After collecting several such papers on payment, he will send the vote papers through one of his men to drop in the boxes. This is marvellous.

In the recent elections here, the Congress won 372 seats out of 548 seats. They have lost 176 seats. What is the reason for such a loss within so short a time after getting independence? At this rate, Congress may have a bare majority in the next election. But soon after the election, I am sure, the Congress may resign and run away from India or Congress itself will go into the stomach of socialists or in the stomach of communists, or a civil war has to be expected as in China. It may not be a wonder within two or three years if we see a scenery here as in China. Pondicherry, Goa and Ceylon may be the bases to defend under such situation to stay longer.

Can any Government sell pipe lines of 300 miles and other equipments by tenders and auctions? Can any Government spend very valuable dollars and sterlings for new vehicles while they are selling lots and lots and thousands and thousands of vehicles and other equipments while people are suffering for water for transport and for food? Can any Government nationalize either transport or any industries before they have got necessary equipments and materials to make and before they know to use?

I am one for rapid nationalization for everything in India. I am one for being a Governor-General for the whole world. I like that. But I have to see what materials and what power I have in my hands. Without such powers without such materials and without knowledge if we dream for these things we have to come back as a tennis ball.

Naicker told somewhere that we can run the Government, without levying any tax at all. As I told on previous occasions we can do nationalization in a very short time with very good results without any special effort. This is not the place to discuss.

If I mention anything plainly and elaborately our good friends will tell that I have arranged even this party for my own publicity. I know now that some friends here though I don't like, are going to say something about me. These references also will hold good for their arguments. Though on every occasion I requested my friends not to mention anything about me, they are always mentioning in their speeches atleast as a courtesy. For this I can't be blamed.

If one spends anything for good, my friends say that he is a spend-thrift. If one invites some friends in order to have knowledge and to do some co-operative work as on this occasion, this is also called as publicity meeting. If anybody is paying the taxes honestly, they are asked by the Government to pay more taxes. If anyone is not agreeing for corruption or not paying any corrupt tax, he is called as a tax-dodger as in my case. If Sir Shanmukam Chettiar resigns his office on account of several unbearable circumstances against his conscience, I was told by my friends, he has resigned on account of the withdrawal of my case, while the cases against me were not withdrawn, but on the other hand, on that day my very valuable materials were attached in this premises and sold in

the public auction and while myself and Chettiar never discussed about my cases so long as he was the Finance Minister of the Central Government.

I have to thank this Society and particularly Mr S. K. Ray Chaudhuri who took my case to the attention of the Society and passed a resolution to take this matter to our Prime Minister. Of course I requested him not to take up this matter at present as will prejudice to some extent against my plans.

Now I don't want to mention anything more as this will be prejudicial at present for my activities against the Government red-tapism and injustice. But I am going to publish openly or going to give open statements when I am prosecuted.

Prof. Viswanath delivered a speech in the Engineers Conference at New Delhi mentioning that there is no need to get anybody from outside India, as consulting Engineers. We have very many Engineers of excellent qualification both practical and theoritical. If we go in for people from outside, our country will lose not only our capital, but will have to pay heavily to foreign countries for future supply.

By this way we lose the confidence in our own men who have talents ability and organising capacity. Government has no life to learn all these truths. This is how the people also are losing confidence in Government. When Government have no confidence in our men, how can we expect the people to have confidence in them? In this way, each one loses confidence in others. Unless and until the

confidence thus created in revitalized, I am sure this Government will lose India. But not only this Government, any Government will lose India as Britain lost the Indian Empire.

While the Independent Government's first duty is to set right the existing misfits in proper places, they have not done so. I give examples here.

Government Radio Factory at Madras is under the Director of Industries, but the Provincial Broadcasting section is under the P. W. D. while the Radio Research Scholarship is under the Director of Industries.

Further in Radio Education the Degree Course is under the Educational Department, while Radio Service course is under the Director of Industries. Above all these, Broad-casting service is under Central Government. What is the harm if all the six subjects are under one Department combined with industry, broad-casting, scholarship, and training? In that case all the expenses can be met by production in addition to extra-ordinary profits.

In the same way P. W. D. has got in their hands water works, buildings in addition to Roads and Radio section, while main roads are in the High way department of the Central Department.

Regarding Grow More Food, food is with food minister while agriculture is with other minister.

Then water supply is with one minister while well-boring is with another minister. Control is with one minister while production, procurement and tax are with other minister.

Please imagine ; Unless the Government does this elementary co-ordination how can we expect any benefit from any department ?

The Government are making rules every day which no lawyer or judge or any public man can remember and understand. If we take a rule first it comes under regulation or Act of 1820, and then an amendment comes every tenth year, third year or every year with number of sub rules or amendments until 1940. Then within this nine years 100 to 200 per cent more number of amendments come. Why can't the Constituent Assembly make the rules, briefly, plainly so that every one can understand and act accordingly.

As at present half anna corruption or a present is taken as a corruption case and convicted. Corrupt cases involving amounts of thousands and lakhs are acquitted by some loop-holes of this cumbersome rules and acts. Recently a Shop Act has come into force. In which if there are one or two people as sweeper and night watchman in a place, the Government is insisting to have a number of registers as per rules. For the payment of Rs. 5/- for the part time sweeper, for payment of Rs. 10/- or 20/- for salaried watchman, a clerk who has only to maintain the registers under this act must be paid Rs. 50/- to Rs. 100/-. When the watch man

becomes building manager, sweeper becomes caretaker in the pay sheets, then the mouth of this act is closed.

Yet another instance which is not connected in any of my cases. For the sin of purchasing from a third concern in which I had connection, in the bus permits some more unusual special conditions were added which are never contemplated in practice or in the rules, but ordered by the influence of the incometax department to whom no where is a place in this administration under any acts or rules. By mere threatening by officers, in these permits these conditions are added.

An import permit is refused for a concern simply because my name was in the shareholders administrative list.

In Grow More Food connection some boring machines valued nearly 20,000 rupees were ordered for in which by the fluctuation of market prices a difference of about 100 to 200 rupees came above the permitted dollars. On account of this, for months together these machines are lying in the eastern side of Beach Road and are unable to move to the western side of the same Road. Perhaps it cannot move till the end of this year.

Then license for goods worth about Rs. 8000/- expired before the goods' arrival. A fine of 25% or so of the value was levied. This is not the fault of the concern, but is the fault of the Government.

Is this not a day-light robbery while unnecessary goods calmly imported by forged licenses or by corrupt licenses?

Here I give one small example in a concern. By a complaint a cashier can dimiss a peon or a manager, a foreman can dismiss a fitter or engineer, a manager can dismiss a peon or an engineer. In any of the cases if the complainant's action is proved as wrong, he is also dismissed. If the rules are observed do you think there will be any corruption or back-biting or tale-bearing or any other misbehaviour| with anyone in the concern? In this way if any government officer misbehaves and if he is given proper punishment, will there be any corruption or any injustice or any non-co-operation or any no-confidence?

Until this method is carried out, one has to call this Government as gangster government with brutal power, which is destroying the confidence and honesty in all walks of life.

We have to appreciate the United Province government for giving prize of Rs. 5,000 for production of 548 maunds of potatoes in an acre of land. In this one instance our government has succeeded a victory in Grow More Food; but on the other hand Sowrashtra Government plans to spend 54 lakhs of rupees on a temple to be looked after as a relic of architecture.

A number of rules and acts are every day produced by Government and corruption is also produced in mass scale by the help of the same acts and rules.

Now we in South India have to take this meeting as an extraordinary meeting for the following reasons. A South India Centre is opened by the famous Scientist Sir C. V. Raman in the presence of Dr. Dey, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Members of India Society of Engineers.

In addition to this the members of the Institution of Engineers (India) South India Centre have also convened a meeting during this period, and both the Societies are going to have joint meeting also. By this unique oppurtunity, I hope all the members of both the Societies will get the maximum benefit and can rule whole of India according to their scheme and desire in place of the present inefficient Government, if their co-operation stands on sound basis and sound schemes. The engineering problems are numerous, and administrative problems are also numerous. Such problems we have to discuss in subsequent meetings, as we have the centre here itself.

As a final request to all friends here who have not started any industry up to now, I request each one to start one industry to study from the beginning to bring out with perfection which can stand any competition in the world so that our country will come forward equal to or better than other countries.

I request Sir C. V. Raman to inaugurate the South India Centre.

For and on behalf of the India Society of Engineers I hereby welcome all the members and all the gentlemen, who have taken the trouble to attend this meeting and help us in making this function of opening the South India Centre of the Society a success.

Speech delivered by

Sir C. V. RAMAN, Kt., N.L., F.R.S., etc.

on 17th September, 49,

Mr. President and Members of the India Society of Engineers, Mr. G. D. Naidu, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel a little embarrassed because the Society has to-day bestowed upon me a distinction which I think could be more appropriate to a Maharaja or Potentate who has presented them with, say, a couple of lakhs of rupees; an honorary patron who is not in a position to patronize the Society (Cheers) seems to be in a little uncomfortable position. Nevertheless, I have a principle in life, never to seek an honour and never to refuse an honour (Cheers). On that principle, I have accepted the garland, if I may say so, which they have put upon me. And now, I have to perform a very interesting function laid upon me by our host of to-day, whom you all know and by the Society, to declare open the South India Central Society.

Well, I would like to say a few things, but I am told that I must speak at some length, an invitation which it is not very difficult for me to carry out, because I am accustomed to speaking at

very considerable length, not so lengthy I hope, as to make empty all these tables and chairs in front of me. But, I would like to say a few words about the Profession of Engineering.

I do not think Engineering is the oldest profession of all; there is another profession still older than that which it would not be appropriate for me to refer to on the present occasion in the presence of Ladies.

Well, Engineering is certainly one of the oldest professions in the world, because the world has always need of Engineers. I can recall to you, for example, a visit I paid many years ago to Thebes, 400 miles off the Nile and I was seeing a wonderful obelisk — a stone pillar more than 100 feet high put up by one of the celebrated Queens of Egypt, not a Pharoah but a Queen of Egypt — a wonderful stone obelisk, which stands today after 3,500 years, a glittering spire of granite, polished, lustrous, just as lustrous today as it was three thousand five hundred years ago, a wonderful piece of Engineering. I was told it came from another five hundred miles down the Nile, cut, polished and put up there. It is a wonderful science.

Well, he is a great engineer, whoever it was who did that job. We all know, for example, of the wonderful roads which the Romans built, the wonderful aqueducts. Many civilisations all over the world have had need of engineers who could put up wonderful temples, make roads, aqueducts, irrigation schemes and so on. The world may not

have always remembered them, but the world had need for them and the world has produced such engineers. What has altered the context? When we talk of engineering, we naturally think of these ancient trades, but the whole complexion, the meaning of the science of engineering has been altered during the last 150 years. It started, of course, with that wonderful invention of the steam engine. The change acquired a greater speed when the days of electricity came along and now we have a number of kinds of engineering so large, that I do not want to tell you all the different kinds of it to-day. But I can put it to you this way. When you are unpractical, you are a man of science, when you are practical, you are an engineer (Cheers) and that is the reason why I suppose, your journal is called "Science and Engineering". Well, but there is more than that. What is actually happening to-day is this. When I put it that way, I thought you Engineers would like it, but let me put it in another way, which you may not like so well (Cheers). The science of to-day becomes the engineering tomorrow. It is the man of science, the unpractical man of science in his laboratory that creates new ideas, puts forward new methods, makes new discoveries which so far as he is concerned are of no value to him at all; he is not practical enough to convert them into Rupees, annas and pies or Dollars or whatever it may be – I am sure Dollars will appeal more to us than Rupees, annas and pies to-day (Cheers), in view of the great dollar shortages. Then it is taken over and it becomes engineering. In my own life time, I have seen subject, the most recondite, I would think of, just on the border

line which only the professional man of science can understand and appreciate and within a short time, within two or three years, it becomes one of the liveliest branches of practical engineering. I am told I have several other opportunities of speaking before I leave Coimbatore. So, I do not propose to talk about it I will, on another occasion, give you one such illustration — I could give you twenty illustrations, if I wanted to — I do not propose to do that, but there is a very close liaison between the progress of science and the advance of engineering. You cannot really divorce them. I need not at all labour the proposition of the immense importance to India of the profession of engineering. I must confess, however, I do not feel at all happy about either the position of science in India and I am even less happy about the position of the science of engineering (Applause). The fact of the matter is this, that we in this country are in the year of grace 1949. I think we are somewhere about the year of grace 1849, so far as our progress in all these matters is concerned. When I say this, I mean, no reflection upon great and practical men like our friend Dr. Dey opposite, because he knows he is not in India. We have just been told that he got great distinction in other countries of the world, but that is a different proposition. I am not talking of exceptional men and what they do. I am talking of the general level of scientific achievement and of engineering knowledge in this country. We are still far far behind the time, and the reason is not far to seek. The reason is just this. Any one who knows the history of the modern world knows, how intimate is the relationship between the industrial

development of a country and the state of science and engineering. The steam engine produced the great industrial revolution but it gave alse a tremendous fillip to the progress of the science of thermodynamics, to physics and physical thought and all the physical thought went back again and influenced afresh the technical development of engines and so on. The industrial state of a country, the state of science and the state of the professional engineering — they are inseparable, they have been all connected in the closest possible way with each other. The fact that India to-day, I do not say anybody's, I have to say this especially after Mr. G. D. Naidu's speech, that India to-day has got a fresh and flourishing industry. Mr. Naidu told us it is not so and I am quite content to accept his statement and that in a sense is also responsible for the fact that though we have a few scientists here and there, though we make much of them and call them the world's greatest scientists, - that is all right to say, such a thing in Coimbatore but, if you go and say that in London, or Paris or New York, you will only excite a smile of derision — You have a few good scientists, but taken as a whole, we are still far behind the tide of progress just for the reason because there are no industries, there are no industrialists, not enough of them to finance and support science and scientific studies and because we have not enough science and scientific studies. Our engineers are still, great majority of them, they think in terms of what it was forty or fifty or hundred years ago, closely inter-related and I am glad to notice from what the Secretary of the Society has just rightly said that one of the objects of the

Society is to bring about the co-ordination between all these various aspects, the scientists, the industrialists and the engineer and so on. I think that is a very useful and a very important thing. Of course, as an academic man, I should say perhaps, that is putting the cart before the horse.

I would begin with building up. I would attach the greatest importance to building up a great scientific tradition in this country and then as the level of science increases, the level of engineering, the content of engineering knowledge will also rise and then of course, the work of the engineers will advance industry and so on. But, here again, whether the cart is the science and the horse is the industry or vice versa, it is very difficult to say; really the whole thing is a complex one and bringing together all these different people on a common platform and writing a journal such as yours, I understand three thousand copies are sent out every month - all that is a wonderful record.

Well, I think myself that kind of work is extraordinarily useful in the present state of our scientific engineering and industrial advance in this country.

Well, I am glad in a sense that you are meeting in South India and that the South Indian Centre has been inaugurated at Coimbatore. I think I have heard the word "remote" applied to the City of Coimbatore. Well, I was told that the earth is more or less a sphere approximately a sphere, so, what is meant by one point in this sphere being remote?

I do not know what that word "remote" means? I think if I were a Coimbatorian, I should be very indignant being called "remote". I could equally well say that "Calcutta" a "remote" city (Cheers).

Well, I think, I am sure, we Coimbatorians, shall certainly forgive our guests for the inadvertent use of having called ours a remote place (Cheers). We will forgive them especially because they talked to us this being a beautiful place; there, I entirely agree with them. I am sure we all agree that no better place than Coimbatore could have been chosen, and in Coimbatore, no better place than this great hall (Loud Applause). We are meeting in an atmosphere of intense practical engineering and we are enjoying the hospitality of a man who exemplifies in himself the true spirit of an engineer, that is the achievement of practical ends in a highly practical way. I do not want to take this occasion to say anything about our host Mr. G. D. Naidu. It is quite unnecessary. It will be carrying coal to Newcastle to talk about Mr. G. D. Naidu in Coimbatore, but so, I was very much touched by the references coming from you, from a remote city like Calcutta (Loud Cheers), a reference to Mr. G. D. Naidu, I was very much touched by the highly appropriate compliment. Very often you know in this country, we pay great and empty compliments to each other, for example, I have been called the World's greatest scientist; the only thing that I can do is to take a hand-kerchief and cover my face with shame on that wholly improper allegation. But, let me assure you, Sir, that, what you said about our host of to-day is entirely different. The

sentiments expressed are echoed from the bottom of my heart (Applause). I have been here on many occasions; this is not the first time I have spoken in this hall and standing here and standing in the midst of what I may call a monument, of his industry, of his love of the younger generation, of his love of education his patriotism, all his fine qualities, it is very pleasing to see him recognised by one who comes here entirely, if I may say so, without prejudice.

Well, I would like to say this. This is a highly appropriate place in which such an organisation has been created. I am told the society has over a thousand members. I do not know how many of them are from South India. It does not matter at all. If at all, Mr. Naidu is one Member of South India and he must be the Vice-President, I should say, that he is a host in himself; it does not matter, whether there is any more or not. But it is certain there are many more and the point is this that I know very well, that the point of view that you represent is not high brow type of engineer, who writes the paper that is intelligible only to the Physicists; you are practical people, know practical ends and though I am myself what I might be called high browed, nevertheless, I can appreciate the other point of view and I am sure the reason why Mr. Naidu is a member of your society and a Vice President, is, that his point of view is a very close proximation to yours. He also looks at engineering, not as an academic pursuit, not at all, he looks upon it as a means for the development of our country, which may rise to a place in the sun.

Well, I cannot help thinking that to-day, all is not well with India. I want to assure every one present here, that I am not a politician, I am not the least desired to criticise anybody, least of all the Congress Government, either in the Province or in the centre. I have no desire to bring what I think is still a promising scientific career to an abrupt termination (Cheers) It is only for that reason, I do not wish to go into politics. But, I was once an officer of the Indian Finance Department. I was once a student of Economics, public administration, taxation, finances, currency and all the other things For ten years, I practised there and I quite recently, actually sat in that wonderful institution about which we hear to-day so much "The International Bank for reconstruction and development". I sat along with people who talk of millions of dollars with the same non-chalance that you and I talk of four anna bits (Loud cheers) and therefore, I may permit myself the liberty of giving expression to a few thoughts about the present state of our country, especially in the field of industry. I am not talking beyond what the occasion demands, because, you are real engineers. You are interested in the future of India. You want to serve India quite rightly. If, incidentally, it also gives some advantages, well, that does not matter at all. That is only by the way; the main purpose, of course, is the advancement of India.

Now, what is the present state of our country. I want to say this that in my own humble way, I believe myself that the real trouble in this country did not start on the 15th of August, not at all, the

famous 15th of August. Many people would think, perhaps, that was the starting point of the trouble in this country. Our getting independence and, perhape, the voyage of independence had gone on the heads of some of our rulers and so on. Well, that is neither here not there. I think the real trouble started a little earlier, when a certain Finance Member, a gentleman called Liaquat Ali Khan, I think he was the Finance Member; that was still the days of the Interim Government and the British had still something to say about India; he did something extra-ordinary clever, as he must have thought and that was the idea that the taxation level in this country was too low in the higher grades. He said "Now I am going to steepen the measure of taxation so that by the time a man will really come into what may be called the grade of industrialists and capitalists and entrepreneur, the taxation will be at the rate of 15½ annas in the rupee", a very wonderful idea for a Finance Minister and I think lot of people who were not Pakistanis also must have thought it a wonderful idea; why? Soak the rich, make them pay 15½ annas in the rupee, so wonderful a thing for the finances of the country; we have lots of money, we can do whatever we like, we can create as many jobs as we please and so on; a wonderful thing; go on tax them, 15½ annas in the rupee.

Well, it was carried. You see, Liaquat Ali, that is one of the cleverest things, he thought, he was doing and many of our friends were stupid enough, if I may use the strong word to be taken in by the gesture and the result was that the whole economy of India, to my mind, is completely upset.

It is no doubt a very unsound doctrine standing from the stand point of the Communists and even the Socialists to say that the people who make money are to be taxed ; quite right ; But. I think of poor old Aesop, there was a man called Aesop, whom you might have heard of Aesop, the Aesop's fables. There is a story about killing the goose that lays the golden eggs and the Liaquat Ali's measure, 1 think, literally killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. The trouble started there. In every country in this world, there have to be a few people who are capable of being Entrepreneurs who have got the vision and the money too, they can do things, they can develop the industries, you can no more do without such men than can science advance without the original minds that create new knowledge in the field of industry. You also want people who are not average type, men of ability, men who have got the courage, ambition to go ahead and do something. The whole prosperity of the United States of America of which we all hear today, the wonderful wealth of the United States of America, the whole prosperity of the United States is entirely due to these wonderful pioneers in America who built up great industries on next to nothing They started in a small way and built up wonderfully great ; all the wealth of America is due to the ability and industry of her pioneers. There were thousands of them, and the more successful they were, the more the number of pioneers grew and built up America to its great economic prosperity. It is not Government of the United States. If at all, it was the industry of a few people. They make tons of money no doubt. But, in America, there are other ways of relieving the rich people of their

wealth than taxation. One way was that the University should go and give the man an Honorary Doctorate and he would hand over a cheque for five million dollars to build a laboratory. That is also a way of taxing the rich, but done in a very nice way. A part of million dollars gets a piece of paper calling him an Honorary Doctor of Law or Science. It is a good exchange, very satisfactory to both (Cheers). As a matter of fact, as you are laughing, let me tell you I have been very closely connected in a way with American Science for the last forty or fifty years. I have watched the progress of American Science. I was in America 20 years ago and if you ask me what is it that has enabled the United States of America to be the great power as it is to-day in every sphere, it is the virility of great industrial pioneers in building up the centres of learning from one end of the America to the other. They built up the great school, the University and the colleges of engineering, they built up these wonderful centres and made the American nation what it is to-day, a nation of Prognostic people, who are always looking at smallest invention, the smallest discovery forthwith and immediately applied to the industry, immediately used for the development of her industrial progress, and the whole starting point was that. It was in the first place, the existence of a great number of wealthy individuals who had made money by their own efforts and who gave money freely for educational progress, just as, for example, Mr. G. D. Naidu has given all his wealth. To one Mr. G. D. Naidu in Coimbatore in India, there were ten thousand G. D. Naidus in the United States and it is they who made the United States. I am telling

this to you, it is not a fairy tale. I am just telling you nothing but what anybody who knows anything about the United States will tell you, it is perfectly true

Now, the position to-day is this. You see, by this terrible taxation of Liaquat Ali, the axe was laid and it repressed all industrial enterprise. No doubt, you may say that it is right to choke the rich man, but you have got to wait till he becomes rich; you have got to wait till the goose is about to lay golden eggs and not to cut it open and try to take out the golden eggs, then you lose the goose that lays the golden eggs. This is what has happened and I, as an Economist, know and many of the Economists would agree with me, that Liaquat Ali did the worst possible thing that could be done to India—I tell you, I am not boasting but, I foresaw what the result would be, viz. that Indian industry would be on the down grade. The time would come when no one would care to invest one rupee in industry: no one would care to risk his property and money in industrial enterprise. The well of savings would dry up, the capital would be unobtainable and all that follows as in the law in mathematics and Physics, as a natural law, working out its consequences. That measure of what might be called, ex-propriatory taxation initiated by Liaquat Ali Khan, is the seat of all the financial problem to-day. It is no use trying to say all that course has been accentuated by the talks of nationalization talks of this and that. You see the whole atmosphere in the country! We are not yet Communists in this country. Communism is only slowly raising its head, but, so far as actual adminis-

tration goes, we might as well have been Russia. What is happening to-day is communism pure and simple. The Liaquat Ali's measure was communism and undisguised communism, i. e. choke the rich man, cut off his head. That is what has happened and you see, we in the roar of the present state, forget that all was due to a measure cordially approved with applause by the Legislative Assembly. They rung the bells then. They will wring their hands now. Yon know the famous phrase "ringing their bells". They will wring their hands. That is my interpretation. I may be entirely wrong, but that is my interpretation of India's present state. The fact is this, that I personally do not think the history of the nations of the west has shown any great encouragement to the idea of what might be called socialisation, nationalisation and all the rest of it. That is all idealism, remote idealism, which I do not think will work. The fact is that in the present state of India, there is only one way in which India can grow great and strong and that is by individual initiative and enterprise, the enterprise of the industrialist, the enterprise of the man of science and the engineer and when they all come together and the less we have of Government controls and the less we hear about nationalisation. It is only by initiative, individual initiative, individual enterprise, actuated not necessarily with profit motive. When we talk of individualism, I think, we only think of individualism with profit motive. I deny that. I think myself that a man may be individualist and may nevertheless be patriot and nevertheless be altruistic. Mr. G. D. Naidu, an example of a man who is most eminiently an individualist, but he is

not devoid of patriotism, he is not devoid of ideas, he is not devoid of altruism, you see, it is possible for a rich man to be a good man also (Applause). This is what our Governments do not realise now. You see, every rich man in this country must be a black-marketeer, must be a hoarder, must be an incometax dodger. I think this is what is happening and I think the Government of to-day, if it does not realise this mistake, allow me to say, Ladies and Gentlemen, that you cannot. This is very obvious to a man of science like myself; it may not be good politics, but, I think it is good sense, to say. Let us count up the total number of Secretariat Officials, starting from the Prime Minister and find out all the people who have real power in the Central Secretariat. Probably, two hundred. I am not prepared to include the Superintendents and the Clerks and so on (Cheers). These two hundred – they may be the cleverest men in this country but they cannot govern 400 million people in the sense that they want to do the job of four hundred million people. You see, the less government you have in the country, the better for the country (Applause). The only way you can run a country successfully is to allow people to manage their own business to allow them to look after their own concerns and this two hundred people think that they are going to run all the affairs. Take this, for example. If I want a piece of bread in the morning, I have to apply to the

Government of India for a licence for getting bread. You see (Cheers). This is the position to-day in the affairs of four hundred million people, even for the smallest thing. If I want for example to go, shall we say, from Bangalore ten miles off, to do some work, I must apply to the Petrol Rationing Authority somewhere and get one gallon of petrol. What is happening is this :- We are having to-day a plethora of controls. Everything is control. Of course, I do not say they are doing it with any wicked motive. No, No, No. They are doing it all for our good, you know. That is the trouble. What I say, Sir, is this. Two hundred people cannot do the business of four hundred millions. You have to let the people do their own business and this is a thing that is too obvious to need a statement and yet it is just these obvious things that need to be stated by a man of science. A man of science can see very clearly and he says that the position is utterly impossible. No country can flourish if the business of four hundred million people is to be run by two hundred people. You must trust people. you must allow them to deal with their own concerns! There is one country in the world where these ideas are fully understood, that is the United States of America and it is no surprise that to-day the United States of America is the most powerful, the richest, the most enlightened country in the world. I say that without hesitation

(Loud Applause). If, on the other hand, our people our administrators think that the Russian model is the one to follow, then what is the use of pretensions. Let us all be communists. Let us cut off the heads of all capitalists, let us shoot them and appropriate everything, abolish all property, have only communism in this country, but you cannot have both ways. You can either have the one or the other. I think, myself, that the Russian example is not the one to be followed. But, what is happening to-day in this country is this. Without saying so, we are following the Russian model. WIthout saying so we begin to believe that the country must be run by the Secretariat. It is utterly an impossible situation. I am saying this without any heat or without passion. I think myself in the last analysis, the trouble just is this, that we do not to-day believe in individual enterprise and initiative. We do not believe to-day that any man working on his own, can do any good at all. All the good must come to us from the Secretariat. This is a vicious talk (Applause) and I think that the country at large, and our administrators at large should learn this lesson and leave the country to itself and let the country find its own solution. I do not think that solution can be imposed on us by the wisdom of somebody sitting in Secretariat with files and notes written. All that is not going to work: You see, the people at the top after all are not specialists,

they are not industrialists. they are not agriculturists, they are not tradesmen, they are not business people and many of them are not financiers and what are all the things that they are doing? They know nothing at all. They just came and they are put in positions of power and they think they are going to run this country,

Well, if they go on like this, I do not know where this will end up. I think it is time that the country rouses itself and faces now, less of government, more of free enterprise, more of freedom for the individual, less of oppression, less of Secretariet notes, freedom and initiative. This is what is wanted in this country and this is the only way by which India can arise. It is going down the slope, you see, as we all know it. It does not need Mr. G. D. Naidu to tell us that we are all going down the slope. We can only get out the slope, when we realise that a man can be a good Economist, when he comes to look after his own job.

Well, I have said what I have to say. I mean no offence. This is not politics. This is just commonsense, which is very different from politics.

Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have done. I think I have spoken long enough and perhaps, trodden on topics that may be perhaps be a little dangerous but I feel them. I feel and feel what is

wrong with this country. There is another danger, of course, but I think that danger is very serious and that is the danger of thinking that we can ever live in the 20th century and adopt the mentality, the modes of living of the 17th or 18th century. That is not possible. We live to-day in the modern world. Whether we like it or not, we have to accept all that the western world gives us in so far as it is really good for us. We see the fluorescent lights – you go into any bazaar in Calcutta, "remote" Calcutta (Cheers) or even near Coimbatore, what do you find – Flourescent lights! It is the latest gift of modern science. I know the days when this was a novelty in the laboratory. You see to-day, no beediwala would think that his shop is as good unless he has a fluorescent lamp (Cheers). I am giving one illustration – I could give you twenty others – to show how in our own life-time, the advance of science has swept off, has influenced our lives more and more. The impact of science and scientific progress, necessarily will stir us up, and so, we cannot have it both ways. We cannot go back to the 18th or 17th century and say now, India is the land of upstarts. Some peoples may ask what have you to do with motor cars, and railways and telegraphs and fluorescent lamps? Such an attitude is only unpractical and impossible as it is. Even our own good sense, make us reject that way and whether we like it or not, we have to take it for

granted and therefore we have to start from the premise that we can reject what science gives us unless we are satisfied that it is bad for us. All right. Then you give it up and that is the only way we can adjust ourselves. India can adjust itself to modern conditions by going full speed ahead and make science the property of the million. The level of science should be brought down to the common folk in the way that they can understand and the engineers should realise, it is no good sitting back and talking of the science which enabled the Romans to build their aqueducts and roads; we have to think of science in terms of the latest developments. I should like to say that our engineers are conscious of what is happening in other countries, appreciate the tremendous advances that have taken place. For example, during the last ten years, the whole science of engineering has been revolutionised not in this subject or that field but in every field by the advances of science that have taken place during war time. I may have an opportunity of saying something about it on another occasion. We have to do that and rebuild ourselves on the basis of a close liaison between the man of science, the engineer, the industrialist and of course the consumer at large and I think, less we have of government interference and government control in these matters, the better for us. I say this without any animus against any government, and without

desiring to criticise anybody. I say this is commonsense and I hope and trust that the words will not fall on deaf ears. I say so fearlessly.

Let us look forward to happier days when such co-operation exists and in such work, Mr. President, a society, such as yours, whatever may be your aims, whether you want to fly high and discover the latest secrets of science to apply them in practical engineering or whether you are content to accept what comes to us from the west and translate into action, translate into practical use in the special circumstances of the country, there is room for work at all levels, at the higher levels and at what might be called the lowest levels or at what might be called the deepest levels, the word deepest level has no sting in it. There is work for the engineer, for the man of science at every one of these levels. Do not care what level it is. So long as you know what you are doing, so long as you know what you want to do and you bring to bear upon it all your energy and enthusiasm, you are bound to do good.

Well, I am glad in another sense that a society from very far off "remote" Calcutta has come here to Coimbatore. In a sense, if I may say so, it is a proof of something which I think is very doubtful, the unity of India, which is a very doubtful proposition. Of course, the departure of the British on the 15th of August, 1947, has brought about a certain thing in India and there are people sitting in Delhi to frame laws, regulations for the language which you and I are going to use to-morrow and for many other things including the conditions

under which you may be locked up and may not be locked up and so on. These are all the science of unity of India, that is coming as you know.

Well, I do not believe that it is all unity. I know little country, Switzerland, which has got four national languages, not one, and why should you not have twenty national languages in a big country like ours. I will not discuss these issues. I will not. But, let me tell you this, a few men of science, a few scholars, a few idealists, if I may say so, either practical or unpractical can do more to secure the unity of India by sitting at this table from different parts of India and having a common cause and working with common ideas than we shall ever get by all the learning to speak Hindi in Devnagiri Script (Applause).

I declare open the South India Branch of the Society of Engineers (Applause).

Address by

DR. B. N. DEY

at the Inauguration Ceremony at Coimbatore
of the South India Regional Centre
of the India Society of Engineers
held on Saturday the 17th September 1949
at Gopal Bagh, Coimbatore.

I am thankful to Mr. G. D. Naidu for the invitation extended to me to come to Coimbatore and co-operate with you in the inauguration of the South India Regional Centre of the India Society of Engineers. The occasion augurs well for the well-being of our country now in the throes of regeneration and reorganisation. For, the organised work done by the Engineers and those they direct – through Societies, Associations and Institutions of Engineers – is of paramount necessity and importance for the country's stability and safety as well as its economic sufficiency. The India Society of Engineers can therefore be of useful and essential service in the cause of India's rehabilitation.

We have been heavily handicapped in the past having allowed ourselves to drift into dependence on outside direction. Because, while India laid dormant and let her skilled talent die out or stagnate, the Western Countries encouraged pushed and drove their indigenous talent to energetically evolve the technique known as "modern". India not having such live and brilliant back-ground of modern technique suffers miserably in consequence. A typical instance is found in the shipping and ship-building industry referred to by Sir A. Ramaswami

Mudaliar (now Chairman of India Steamship Company) in his address delivered very recently (29th August 1949) in Calcutta on board SS. INDIAN TRADER.

The instance refers to the efforts made during the last four decades to promote the Indian Shipping Industry but these efforts have either not been completely successful or in some cases have proved, through no fault of the organisers, disastrous failures. This state of affairs is in violent contrast to India's past position in the industry.

I would not go into the dim and distant past – says Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar – but will confine myself to the state of Indian Shipping in the 18th and 19th century in regard to which periods definite historical documents are available from sources unimpeachable and quarters not altogether friendly to India. Authentic recorded accounts of transactions of those days tell us that the best ships that took part in the Continental trade from the East were all built in and around Calcutta. The East India Company, the largest international trader in those days having a fleet of ships incomparable to those of any other venture, had in their early days ships built at the London or Liverpool docks; but with experience of the state of affairs in India, with the knowledge of the skilled labour then available in India and the information gained of the raw material resources of India, the East India Company turned their attention to get their ships built mostly in Calcutta and, to some extent, in the Malabar Coast of South India. They transferred their custom from England almost entirely to India and the

Ocean-going vessels of the Company built in India formed the bulk of their shipping for several decades and helped to carry rich merchandise from and to distant countries.

The languishing ship-building trade of England woke up to find that India was displacing her completely in this great industry. An agitation was started in Parliament which culminated in the appointment of a Parliamentary Committee presided over by Sir Robert Peel, afterwards the Prime Minister of Great Britain. And that Committee investigated the causes for the decline in ship-building in Great Britain. These causes were clearly explained by the officers of the East India Company. They pointed out that the ships built in Calcutta were far more durable, cost less and were in every way suitable for the trade which the Company was in charge of. Evidence was given before that Committee that an Indian built ship could make three voyages from India to England and back without any trouble whatsoever whereas vessels from the docks in the Thames and Liverpool had to be sent to dry docks after every completed journey. The details of other advantages which were placed before this Committee in 1814 & 1815 need not be gone into.

The advocates of building ships in India were Britishers themselves; no Indian knew what was going on before the above mentioned Parliamentary Committee of Great Britain; and no Indian had a share in trying to place the advantages of Indian built ships before the statesmen of those days, But, the result was a foregone conclusion. The

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Committee recommended that the East India Company should thereafter build its ships only in England and the Board of Directors were given the mandate that no further ships should be built in India.

Today India needs many such mandates from her popular Government through their Parliamentary Committees in the matter of many an industry and many an engineering project.

Unlike other countries, poor India has had a confused start and therefore has lagged behind the other countries who took up modernisation. India was made to depend on the foreign engineer to do her engineering. To make matters worse, the alien engineer was also a "bird of passage". How could he therefore be normally expected to feel with the people their requirements, their resourcefulness, their shortcomings, their abilities and thus lead them as a natural leader, born domiciled or naturalised in the country, could only do.

The confusion was worse confounded by the wrong way the Indian youth was trained in engineering. The limitations of learning the fundamentals through the medium of a foreign language gave him a poor start. Then he was told at school, at college, at home and abroad, alike by his own folks and by the foreigners that India could lead in everything except in Engineering. He, therefore, accepted it as inevitable that engineering leadership was a close preserve of the foreigner.

Thus India could not make much headway even after the foreign engineer was replaced by the

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Indian Engineer by the process called "Indianisation". Being segregated from his kindred of the soil in his youthful days of training and afflicted with an inferiority complex, the poor Indian engineer thought it safe and wise to follow in the foot-steps of his foreign predecessor. His mental equipment sadly lacked the touch of reality and originality. The direction continued to come from outside instead of emanating from inside.

Happily the phase I have so depressingly depicted is disappearing and let us hope it would soon be a thing of the transitory past. A radical change is coming over India with the awakening of the masses and classes alike.

The failures of costly schemes conceived in collusion with vested interests (indigenous and foreign) have opened the eyes of the Indian engineer and as a result of the rude shock his mental balance is righted. No longer will the Indian engineer rely simply on imitation of Western methods and things. He will not allow the foisting of a scheme simply for the reason that it is working successfully in a foreign country. He can boldly declare that Bengal can produce the cheapest electricity thermally - cheaper than hydro-electric-not because of his **swadeshi** sentiments, but because he is a realist engineer, because he has found out the true "costing" - the true costs of coal from Bengal's easily-worked coal seams and of Bengal's skilled & unskilled labour-because he is sure of himself as an independent engineer and therefore fearless in discarding the accepted shibboleths. He has fearlessly discarded the old notions (more political

than technical) of comparative values of Indian labour and the incidence of the same on the manufacturing costs of an electric motor, an automobile, a radio set, a razor blade, a road-roller or a locomotive. He does not blindly believe that because an article is produced in millions by mass production in the West it must be identically manufactured in India to make it marketable. The result is that a large number of small industries have come into being with the consequent employment of our trained artisans, mechanics and engineers.

A rational atmosphere is thus returning to India and bringing hope to her hungry technicians. Foreign manufacturers of specialities as a result expect to do better business because the merits of their goods would be better understood and above all properly employed to yield the best results. Essential foreign experts hired on their merits for short terms would return to their homes with the satisfaction of leaving behind them honest work honestly done. The direction has started emanating from within, as it must, to make India modern, by absorbing the necessary best from outside and creating the maximum possible from inside.

In the circumstances the duty of the India Society of Engineers is clear and their responsibility onerous. Their work is necessary to further the cause of engineering in India. Like other technical institutions of the progressive nations, the India Socity of Engineeers must weld together the efforts of engineers scattered all over India and thereby make India forge ahead and take her rightful place among her wordly neighbours.

BY B N D 17 SEPT 49

Dr. B. N. DEY'S

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

at the Joint Session of the
South India Regional Centres
India Society of Engineers and the
Institution of Engineers (India)
held at Coimbatore at the Arthur Hope College of
Technology on Sunday the 18th Septr. 1949.

My Engineer Friends,

I thank you all - particularly Mr. G. D. Naidu and Principal Viswanath - for asking me to preside over this unique occasion of a joint session of the South India Regional Centres of two all-India Engineers's Association viz., the India Society of Engineers and the Insititute of Engineers (India). I hope such joint sessions of India's Engineering Organisations will be held periodically all over India to give an impetus to the organised work of the Engineers so vitally needed for the betterment of the nation. Engineers are national assets and as such they should pool their talent and resources in the service of the country.

This joint session although called a "paper meeting" is more a policy-making conference as the premier paper - pioneered by Principal Viswanath - pressed forward the fundamental policy to be pursued by our popular government for promoting Indian

Nation Building, namely, "Indian Consulting Engineers for Indian Government".

I fully endorse what Principal Viswanath has pointed out in his paper and I feel sure this joint session after endorsing the same will press not only the Central Government but the Provincial and State Governments to implement the recommendations made in the paper.

Our present popular governments - in the Centre as well as in the Provinces and the States - are still blindly following their alien predecessors and it is our duty to open their eyes and bring them in line with the Governments of independant countries.

BY B N D 18 SEPT 49

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